

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY: D/HA/FASIEVERTS
APPROVED BY: D/HA: MR. OAKLEY
EA/VLC-MR. BROWN
D/HA MS. DERIAN
DOD/ISA-CAPTAIN VOHDEN
S/S-JETHYDEN

-----070311 130512Z /20

O P 130206Z SEP 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 218556

EXDIS

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:PFOR,MILI, US, VN,LA

SUBJECT:MIA'S
REFERENCES: A)STATE 211880 (BEING REPEATED TO VIENIENTAINE)
B)STATE 193004 C) VIENTIANE 1183

1. IN CONNECTION WITH SEPTEMBER 30 HANOI MISSION, WE THINK '
IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR FRANK SIEVERTS TO MAKE BRIEF TRIP
TO VIENTIANE FOLLOWING HANOI TRIP FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION
WITH LAO ON MIA'S AND TO DELIVER ADDITIONAL MIA CASE RECORDS.
MIA FAMILIES EXPRESS CONTINUING CONCERN AT LACK OF MIA
ACCOUNTING IN LAOS, AND WE WOULD SEE SIEVERTS VISIT AS
OPPORTUNITY TO REMIND LAO OF OUR CONCERN, WHILE REASSURING
FAMILIES THAT OUR CONTINUING MIA EFFORTS INCLUDE LAOS AS
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WELL AS VIETNAM.

2. UNLESS YOU SEE OBJECTION, WE SUGGEST YOU INFORM LAO THAT
SIEVERTS WOULD LIKE TO VISIT VIENTIANE BRIEFLY TO FOLLOW UP
ON DISCUSSIONS IN WHICH HE PARTICIPATED WITH WOODCOCK
COMMISSION, AND ON OAKLEY AND BROWN VISITS. IF LAO IN THE
MEANWHILE HAVE FOUND MIA INFO OR REMAINS SIVERTS VISIT

WOULD OF COURSE PROVIDE GOOD OPPORTUNITY TO TURN THESE OVER
TO APPROPRIATE US OFFICIAL.

3. WE EXPECT HANOI MISSION TO RETURN TO CLARK AIR BASE LATE
SEPTEMBER 30, SO SIEVERTS VISIT TO VIENTIANE COULD BE
ARRANGED CONVENIENTLY FOLLOWING THAT, E.G. OCTOBER 2-3 OR
3-4.

4. FYI, SIEVERTS VISIT TO VIENTIANE WOULD BE ESPECIALLY
USEFUL AT THIS TIME BECAUSE OF LEGAL DEVELOPMENTS
FOLLOWING DEFENSE DEPARTMENT'S ANNOUNCEMENT OF RESUMPTION
OF STATUS REVIEWS (REF B). ATTORNEY FOR SOME MIA FAMILIES
HAS OBTAINED TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER FROM FEDERAL
COURT IN NEW YORK HOLDING UP STATUS REVIEWS PENDING
CONSIDERATION OF ISSUES HE HAS RAISED CONCERNING STATUS
REVIEW DECISION. A PRINCIPAL ALLEGATION OF THESE FAMILIES
IS THAT USG EFFORTS TO SEEK INDOCHINA MIA ACCOUNTING
WILL SLACKEN IF ALL MIA'S ARE DECLARED DEAD. SIEVERTS
AND DEFENSE WITNESSES ARE SCHEDULED TO APPEAR BEFORE
COURT SEPTEMBER 19 TO AFFIRM USG POLICY AS STATED IN REF B
THAT OUR EFFORTS WILL BE UNAFFECTED BY STATUS REVIEWS.
WOULD BE HELPFUL FOR SIEVERTS TO BE ABLE TO INFORM COURT
OF PROPOSED VISIT TO LAOS AS WELL AS VIETNAM TO DEMONSTRATE
OUR COMMITMENT ON THIS SUBJECT. END FYI.

5. ALSO FYI, SIEVERTS IS NOW DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY
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FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS. END FYI.

6. FOR BANGKOK: SIEVERTS ALSO HOPES TO VISIT THAILAND
FOLLOWING HANOI AND POSSIBLE VIENTIANE STOPS, TO REVIEW
INDOCHINA REFUGEE AND FAMILY REUNION MATTERS, AND TO
VISIT REFUGEE CAMPS. SEPTTEL FOLLOWS.
VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MIA, VISITS, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 13-Sep-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE218556
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: D/HA/FASIEVERTS
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770330-1227
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770969/aaaacgdi.tel
Line Count: 101
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: d6c97f47-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 77 STATE 211880
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1290396
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MIA'S
TAGS: PFOR, MILI, US, VN, LA, (SIEVERTS, FRANK A)
To: VIENTIANE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/d6c97f47-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009